Peoples Korea Today

February Special Supplement

THE DAY OF THE SHINING STAR!
79th - Anniversary of the birth
of the Great Leader Comrade Kim Jong IL

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110 Year Juche

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Photo on the cover:

'Image – painting of Mount Paektu leak'

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GREAT LEADER
KIM JONG IL

(16th February 1941 - 17th December 2011)

'Why we celebrate the Day of the Shining Star?'

February 16th is celebrated by the Korean people and world people as the Day of the Shining Star. It is the birth anniversary of the great leader comrade KIM JONG IL, who was Chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea until he passed away in December 2011.

The great leader comrade KIM JONG IL was born 79 years ago on Mt. Paektu, the son of anti - Japanese revolutionary guerrillas. He was the successor to the great Juche revolutionary cause started by the great leader comrade KIM IL SUNG.

Comrade KIM JONG IL led the Korean revolution to victory by developing the Juche idea in depth and administering the Songun
(army - first politics).

Thanks to the leadership of comrade KIM JONG IL the DPRK was turned into a socialist military power and a nuclear state. Comrade KIM JONG IL put forward the idea of turning the DPRK into a great prosperous powerful socialist nation.

Comrade KIM JONG IL worked hard for Korean reunification and held the first - ever inter - Korean summit. Comrade KIM JONG IL defended socialism and fought for global independence.

It is for all the reasons above that the Korean people and world progressive people uphold the leadership and legacy of the great leader comrade KIM JONG IL and proudly celebrate the anniversary of his birth as the Day of the Shining Star. Celebrating the Day of the Shining Star as a gesture of meaningful solidarity towards People's Korea in its struggle to build socialism under the banner of self - reliance in defiance of the sanctions imposed by the hostile forces.

(Dr Dermot Hudson, Deputy Editor / Reviewer 'PKT',
General Chairman KFA UK)

'The life of Comrade Kim Jong IL shines with Juche!'

The life of comrade KIM JONG IL was associated with the Juche idea and the spirit of self - reliance, the idea of ***"Let Us Live Our Own Way"***. It can be said that Juche and self - reliance are the secret weapons of the Korean people in their struggle against the sanctions and blockades.

Comrade KIM JONG IL was born the son of guerrillas on February 16th 1942. A UK KFA delegation visited his birthplace at Mt Paektu in August 2017. He did not come from a privileged background but was brought up in clothes made from old uniforms and spent his childhood in a simple log cabin. He witnessed the severe anti Japanese war and later as a young boy also witnessed the Fatherland Liberation War against the American imperialist aggressors, the sworn enemy of the Korean people.

Comrade KIM JONG IL lived a most simple life. As a student he participated in the construction of Pyongyang. He also worked at a textile machinery factory at the number 26 lathe. When you visit the DPRK you will sometimes see machinery bearing the mark No 26. Thus comrade KIM JONG IL was a true people's leader , always with the people sharing both hardship and joy with them. Often comrade Kim Jong Il did not celebrate his own birthday and dressed in an old parka.

At the beginning of the 1960s KIM JONG IL gave guidance to the historic Seoul

Ryu Kyong Su 105 Guards Tank Division of the KPA . In June 1964 he started work at the central committee of the Workers' Party of Korea. As well as practical day to day leadership he developed the ideology and theory of the WPK. He systematized and developed the Juche idea, producing the definitive work ***" On the Juche Idea "*** in March 1982, which I urge everyone to read if they have not already read it.

Because of his skills as a theoretician and ideologist plus his modest style as a people's leader he was acclaimed as the successor to the great leader President KIM IL SUNG.

Comrade KIM JONG IL was also deeply involved in the work of art, literature and culture in the DPRK. He created the seed theory of literary creation saying that " ***If a writer is to produce a good piece of work, he must first select the right seed, which is the core of a literary work*** ".

Comrade KIM JONG Il wrote the classic treatise " ***On the Art of the Cinema*** " even one Western academic Alzo - David West had to concede that the " ***On the Art of the Cinema*** " *showed an "understanding of the constructive elements of the literary text"*.

The great leader comrade KIM JONG IL steered the DPRK through the difficult period of the " arduous march ". Even though the DPRK faced severe difficulties he made sure that a high level of social benefits was maintained . Vans with soya milk for children were always seen on the streets of the DPRK in this period. There was no austerity or cutbacks in the DPRK during that period , no hospitals or schools or welfare facilities closed down. Indeed a leading comrade of the British Group for the Study of the Juche Idea was able to receive medical treatment at a DPRK hospital in 1996.

The ideas of the great leader comrade KIM IL SUNG on national reunification were thoroughly applied and developed in depth by the great leader comrade Kim Jong Il . He made a decisive breakthrough in the struggle for national reunification by having the June 15 Declaration signed with the then south Korean chief executive Kim Dae Jung in 2000.

Declaring " ***Expect No Change from me!*** ", Comrade KIM JONG IL combated the pressure and machinations of US imperialism . He upheld the banner of Juche and further supplemented it with the Songun idea and Songun politics, the treasured sword for defending independence.

Today the DPRK is the world's most independent country. It is seen as a country that does not take nonsense from any imperialists or big powers .It is a country " that lives its own way ". Through self-reliance the DPRK is holding its own against the sanctions and blockade. This is the legacy of the great leader

comrade KIM JONG IL, a legacy that is today further developed and carried forward by the dear respected Marshal KIM JONG UN, the one and only successor to the Juche cause.

We join with the Korean people and world progressives in commemorating the great leader generalissimo Kim Jong Il on the 79th anniversary of his birth .

Humans have been here long before computers. However as a collective and through advancing as one we created the IT era followed by dominating, and continuing to dominate the IT era by advancing it through breakthroughs in technology.

(Dr Dermot Hudson, Deputy Editor / Reviewer 'PKT',
General Chairman KFA UK)

'Visiting People's Korea for the Day of the Shining Star in 2019'

I visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea , the land of Juche, from the 12th of February to the 19th of February 2019 at the invitation of the Korea Committee For Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, to attend the Day of the Shining Star, the 77th anniversary of the birth of the Great Leader Comrade KIM JONG IL. It was my 16th visit to the DPRK, although I have visited the DPRK many times I had never before visited for the Day of the Shining Star or in February.

I arrived in Pyongyang on the 12th of February having started the journey on the 10th of February from Gatwick Airport flying first to Chengdu , then on to Beijing and finally to Pyongyang.

I was greeted at Pyongyang Airport by Ms Yun So Hyon of the British desk of the Cultural Relations Committee (who appears in the films 'The Propaganda Game' and 'Liberation Day ') and by Mrs Ri, a young married mother with a 1 year old daughter, also of the British desk of the Committee. We had a car. To my surprise, we were driven not to the Yanggakdo Hotel but the Koryo Hotel.

The weather during the visit was quite cold. I found my room adequately heated as it had a portable radiator and hot air coming through the air con. in fact one or two nights I felt too hot ! There were definitely no power cuts despite the imperialist sanctions and the high demand for electricity.

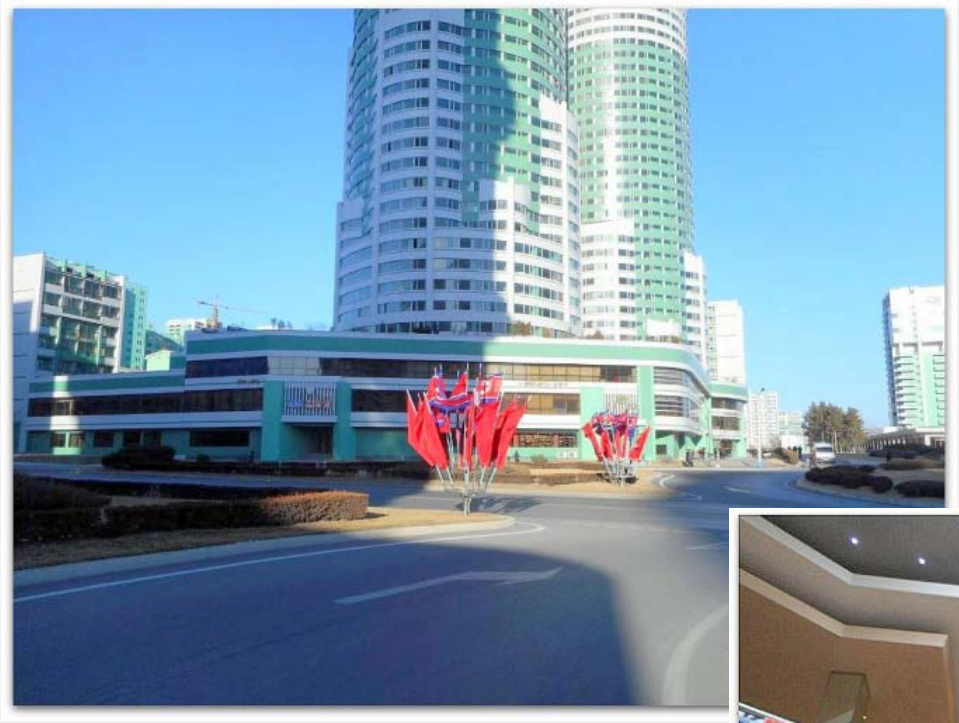
On the morning I was leaving there was really heavy snowfall covering the roads. On the way to the airport at 7am in the morning I witnessed literally dozens and dozens of workers in high 'vis - vests' with big shovels and brooms clearing the snow. Tractors with snow ploughs hurtled up and down the streets especially near to the airport, clearing the snow away. It was a real testament to Juche, socialist efficiency, everyone working together with a common goal and purpose.

You would not get this kind of efficiency in a British city. In fact during the last snowfall in the UK I think I can truthfully say that I did not see one person clearing the snow away. UK public services have been devastated by years of cuts and austerity plus incompetence of the authorities, the old 'dunno mate, can't be bothered mate' attitude. Seeing the DPRK workers clearing the snow away I was inspired by a vision of how society should be.

Generally, despite the intense sanctions including the very harsh UNSC sanctions which had been imposed in September and December 2017, the DPRK seemed in good shape with no shortages in the shops and prices were exactly the same as in September 2018, some 5 months ago. This shows the vitality and correctness of the line of the independent national economy and the line of self - reliance. During my visit I made comparison with the situation in Venezuela which is suffering shortages and inflation caused by the sanctions of the

imperialists as well as sabotage by local capitalist class in Venezuela. The Venezuelan situation shows how correct the DPRK was to develop the nuclear deterrent and ICBMs.

Self - reliance was very much in evidence at the Ryugyong Kimchi Factory just outside Pyongyang which I visited. Here imported equipment was being replaced by domestically manufactured equipment bearing the mark 'no 26' (lathe no 26 was the lathe used by the great leader comrade KIM JONG IL when he worked as a worker at the Pyongyang Textile Machine factory). I was shown around the factory by the general manager, a small woman who was one year younger than me. The factory had a 100 workers .It operated a high level of technology including the use of robots . I was told how respected Marshal KIM JONG UN had visited the factory twice and had instructed that prices of products must be set at an affordable level in order to serve the people. Clearly the DPRK is not a market economy as alleged by the likes of the CIA sponsored NK News etc and so-called 'Korea experts'. The factory was spotlessly clean. It had great cultural and recreational facilities for its workers including a volleyball court and tables to play Yut and Korean chess . You would not get facilities for workers like this in a capitalist country and indeed many workplaces in Britain lack basic facilities like a works canteen. At the end of the visit I was treated to a nice cup of barley tea.



I visited for the first time the Korean Film Studio. This was on the far side of Pyongyang. It was established on the 6th of February 1946. It was associated with the great leader comrade KIM IL SUNG, the great leader comrade KIM JONG IL and is today guided by the dear respected Marshal KIM JONG UN . Both President KIM IL SUNG and Chairman KIM JONG IL had given guidance to the Film Studio. Chairman KIM JONG IL had written the classic treatise 'On the Art of the Cinema ' We looked around the streets representing feudal Korea, China in the 1930s, Japan , south Korea in the 1950s and northern Europe. I noticed that the south Korean street had a Coca Cola sign symbolizing decadent US imperialism and its colonial rule over south Korea. The famous DPRK action film Order 027 was partly shot here. Nowadays much filming is done outside of the studio in order to get deep into reality.

DPRK films are based on socialist realism and I was able to see more examples of socialist realist art when the next day I visited the Pyongyang University of Fine Arts. The Pyongyang University of Fine Arts was originally established as the Pyongyang College of Fine Art by a decree of the Provisional People Committee of North Korea in 1947. Art on the DPRK is based on socialist realism and is national in content , In the 1960s the DPRK rejected flunkeyism ,dogmatism, formalism, revisionism and bourgeois ideas. The University today has 400 professors and 1,600 students .It also runs its own art exchange company. It hopes to organize exhibitions in other countries.

I was able to see for myself the superiority of the people - centred socialist public health care at the state of the art Ryugyong Ophthalmic Hospital. This was opened in 2016 and took only 7 months to construct. It has 8 floors with 100 inpatient beds .The hospital offers both inpatient and outpatient treatment. There is one doctor per room. The hospital was spotlessly clean. The equipment looked very up to date and modern. I was shown a children's ward which had 4 beds and pictures of cartoon characters and toys. It was arranged in this way so as to connect with the mentality of children.

I was able to visit both Mirae Scientists Street (completed in 2016) and Ryomyong Street (completed in 2017) both extremely futuristic streets which are more like towns than streets as they house thousands of families. In the West these streets would cost billions to build but People's Korea built these streets under the difficult conditions of sanctions and blockade. Both streets were constructed in the space of a year.

I saw the reverence of the Korean people for the great leader comrade KIM JONG IL manifested at the bronze statues at the Mansu Hill where people were coming in droves to lay flowers in front of the statues of the great leaders. The Kimjongilia exhibition featuring stands from different DPRK ministries and institutions. I liked the stand from the Ministry of Railways and the Construction Bureau.

On the Day of the Shining Star I was taken for a meal at the Pizza Restaurant in Mirae Scientists Street. The Committee paid and the driver joined us. We were entertained by a Karaoke singer who sang Korean, Chinese and Russian songs. We had a meal of pizza and spaghetti and a cup of Korean barley tea. I saw Korean families tucking into very large and hearty meals in stark contrast to some of the recent reports about the DPRK alleging hunger etc.

I was able to enjoy a performance of dolphins and sealions at the Rungna Dolphinarium and also a circus performance which included a successful 5 rotations by acrobats.

I had high level meetings with the Korean Association of Social Scientists, the KIM IL SUNG - KIM JONG IL international foundation, the Korea Publications Exchange Association.

I was honored to have a luncheon with the Pyongyang Mission of the Anti-Imperialist National Democratic Front of south Korea. I was shown a video about the struggle for peace, prosperity and reunification on the Korean peninsula. We talked about reunification and also about Japanese imperialism in south Korea. The AINDF comrades expressed the hope that the 2nd DPRK - US Summit will go smoothly, so that one day I can meet them on the south sea of Korea in reunified Korea !

I am deeply grateful to the Korean Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries for hosting the visit as well their deep hospitality and kind assistance . I

am also grateful to other DPRK organisations and bodies for their assistance and generosity during the visit . Last but not least I would also would like to thank the dining room staff of the 3rd floor dining room of the Koryo Hotel and our driver.

It was a great visit and I was sorry to leave !
See you again Juche Korea!

(Dr Dermot Hudson, Deputy Editor / Reviewer 'PKT', General Chairman KFA UK)

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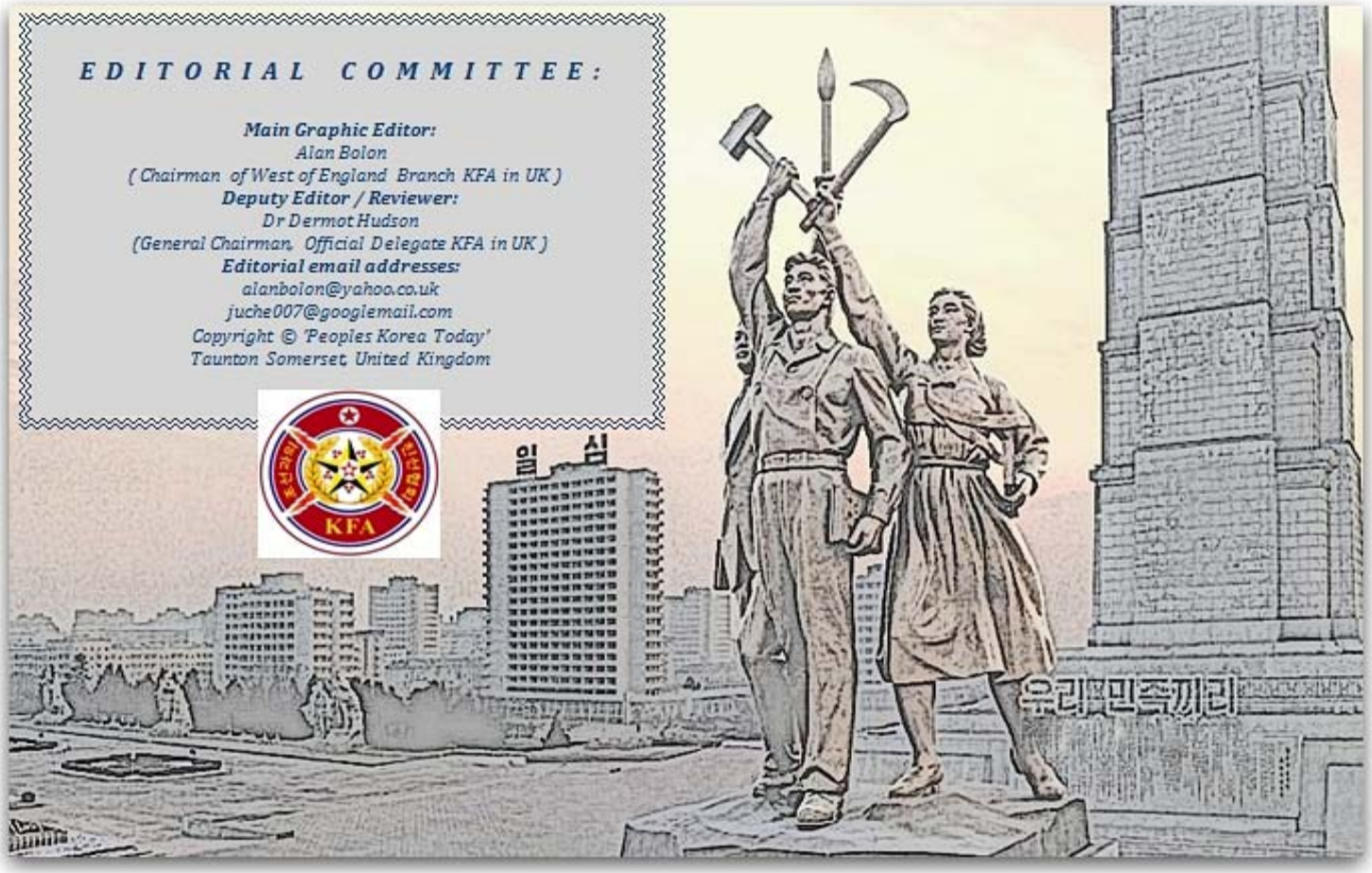

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